

DRAFT - Ad Hoc Committee on Expanded Functions - DRAFT

Minutes from Friday, November 16, 2012

Present: Dr. Michael Kanellis, Lori Elmitt, Mary Kelly R.D.H., Eileen Cacioppo R.D.H., Dr. George North, Jane Slach R.D.A., Dr. Steve Bradley, Dr. Mary Mariani, Dr. Galen Schneider, Penni Ryan, Phil McCollum, Larry Carl, Dr. Steve Armstrong

Charge to committee from Iowa Dental Board

Dr. Kanellis reviewed the charge to the committee from the Iowa Dental Board. The Board has charged the committee with evaluating the potential for increased expanded functions for dental auxiliaries in Iowa to improve access to care. The committee was formed partly in response to a recommendation by the Iowa Dental Association forwarded to the Iowa Dental Board. The Iowa Dental Association passed a resolution at their House of Delegates meeting last May asking that the Iowa Dental Board consider increasing the number of procedures that could be done by Expanded Function Dental Assistants, and to allow/provide a mechanism for Dental Hygienists to become trained and certified to provide these same procedures.

There was general discussion about access to care in Iowa, specifically related to Medicaid-enrolled individuals. A comment was made that the majority of Iowa Dentists participate in Medicaid. Dr. North questioned where the data came from. Larry Carl stated that over 1000 of the 1500 eligible providers in Iowa participate in Medicaid. Dr. North reported that most providers in his home county do not accept new Medicaid patients. Dr. Bradley stated that most practices could not survive on Medicaid reimbursements. Dr. North mentioned that he used to see Medicaid patients, limited to his home county. He stopped seeing Medicaid patients when Medicaid required him to sign a contract.

Current state regulations regarding expanded function

Jane Slach distributed copies documenting training for currently allowed expanded functions for Dental Assistants in Iowa. The current expanded functions were implemented in 2002 as a result of demand from providers for efficiency. Eileen Cacioppo mentioned that the Dubuque county Dental Assistants sent a list to the Iowa Dental Board, which got the ball rolling.

Currently allowed expanded functions for dental assistants include:

- Taking Occlusal Registrations
- Placement and Removal of Gingival Retraction
- Taking Final Impressions
- Fabrication and Removal of Provisional Restorations
- Applying Cavity Liners and Bases, Desensitizing Agents, and Bonding Systems
- Placement and Removal of Dry Socket Medication
- Placement of Periodontal Dressing
- Testing Pulp Vitality
- Temporary Cement Removal
- Monitoring of Nitrous Oxide Inhalation Analgesia

The cost for continuing education to become certified in these expanded functions is typically between \$500-\$600.

Jane Slach researched the expanded functions in other states and found that some go so far as to allow the placement of IV for sedation. Jane also passed out copies for the entire list of Dental Assisting Functions from DANB (Dental Assisting National Board).

IDA proposal for increase in expanded function

The IDA proposal for additional expanded function procedures includes the following:

- Removal of adhesives
- Placement and shaping of amalgam or composite following preparation of a tooth by a dentist
- Forming and placement of stainless steel crowns
- Taking final impressions and records for the fabrication of dentures and partial dentures
- Cementation of final restorations

It was noted that “taking final impressions” is already included in the list of allowed expanded functions. There was discussion that more detail needs to accompany these additional expanded functions (e.g. does “removal of adhesives” allow the use of a handpiece?)

Dr. Bradley suggested the possibility of not specifically describing expanded function activities that are allowed, but to instead allow EFDAs to provide all reversible procedures, providing they have documented training. Apparently there is at least one state that takes this approach. Dr. Bradley proposed that the Dentist in the practice would be responsible for all procedures provided by EFDAs. Dr. North reminded the group that there has to be a way for the Iowa Dental Board to monitor. There has to be evidence of training and competency, which implies a specific list of procedures. Phil McCollum suggested an alternative approach of coming up with a list of reversible procedures that cannot be done by a dental auxiliary.

Jane Slach gave background into the current expanded function course. There is an orientation and course book. Students must receive 80% or better on all online quizzes. At the end of the course there is an evaluation/test on which they must receive a 75% or better. Dr. Armstrong stated that it takes 40-60 hours of training plus competency exams for a dental student to become proficient in placing and carving amalgams.

Dr. North suggested a survey of Iowa dentists to determine how many would utilize an expanded function dental auxiliary. Dr. Kanellis has surveyed pediatric dentists and 56.6% would utilize EFDAs if available.

It was suggested that the actual utilization of an expanded function dental auxiliary would depend on the background of the provider. Providers in the military and Indian Health services have worked with EFDAs for years. It also works well in a multi-chair practice. Eileen Cacioppo questioned if it really saved that much time.

Past History in Iowa (Dr. George North)

Dr. North was involved in the Louisville project, a federally funded 6+ years study on the effective utilization of dental auxiliaries. In the 1970's, at the Oakdale campus clinic, the College of Dentistry had six operatories set up in a wheel fashion (a Louisville Wheel). The clinic's main purpose was the training and teaching of dental assistants in expanded function dentistry. The clinic had eight expanded function dental assistants on staff.

Dr. North commented that most clinics today are not set up to handle expanded functions auxiliaries. He feels it will have a minimal impact due to the low number of providers who will implement it. It may improve access to care for pediatric patients.

How to proceed

Concern was mentioned on the increase in corporate dentistry in Iowa. The group consensus was that there will need to be a standardization in education, testing of competency and proficiency, and will require additional monitoring by the Iowa Board of Dentistry.

Schedule December and January Meeting Dates

Upcoming meetings will be held in Iowa City on Fridays from 12pm to 2pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday January 4, 2013 from 12pm to 2pm, College of Dentistry, Dean's Conference Room. Dr. Kanellis will try to set up a conference call for December.

Eileen Cacioppo and Jane Slach will email their recommendations of expanded function duties.